



## **Sector Strategies Taskforce**

**Update – September 17, 2014**

### **Background**

The Career Council established the Sector Strategies Taskforce at its June 2014 meeting, and tasked it to complete the following duties on behalf of the Career Council:

- Oversee the completion of the Career and Technical Education Return on Investment Study, as assigned to the Career Council by HEA 1064;
- Conduct the analysis and identification of priority sectors where publicly-funded jobs skills and training funds will be targeted; and
- Develop and implement the framework for sector strategies that will serve as a mechanism for Indiana’s education, job skills training, and career development system to collect information and respond to employer needs.

### **Taskforce Members**

Members appointed to this taskforce consisted of Career Council members and ad hoc members that have interest and expertise in the duties that were assigned to the taskforce. The list of taskforce members is below:

<b>Council Members</b>	
Smith, Victor (Chair)	IEDC
Brinegar, Kevin	Indiana Chamber
Eckerty, Sen. Doug	IN Senate
Kiely, Pat	Indiana Manufacturers Association
Sanders, Scott	DWD
Snyder, Thomas	Ivy Tech
<b>Ad Hoc Members</b>	
Bishop, Brad	Orthoworx
Feldhaus, Roger	Region 4 Workforce Investment Board
Fraser, Jessica	Institute for Working Families
Klitzsch, Angie	JP Morgan Chase
McCaw, Betsy	CICP
Smaltz, Rep. Ben	Indiana House

## Summary of Work To-Date

The taskforce has held two meetings to-date. During the first meeting, taskforce members reviewed its duties and responsibilities, and established an initial plan of work for completing those assignments. Ad hoc member Jessica Fraser, from the Institute for Working Families, shared an overview of sector strategies/industry partnership that she conducted. Ms. Fraser's presentation included a concise definition for sector partnerships: "Sector partnerships organize stateholders connected with a specific local or regional industry to develop workforce strategies within the industry. Her presentation also included a summary of industry partnerships that were already establishes and working throughout Indiana.

At the taskforce's second meeting, members received a presentation from EDSI, the consulting firm that has been procured to conduct the career and technical education return on investment study. Taskforce members reviewed the initial findings of the study, and passed a resolution that included the following value statements regarding career and technical education:

1. Career and technical education has a positive impact on students who participate.
2. Career and technical education is a critical tool in ensuring that secondary students are prepared for college and career when they leave high school.
3. State funding should incentivize better student outcomes, rather than focus solely on inputs.

The resolution also established the following recommendations, based upon the initial results of the ROI study:

1. Career and technical education programs should place students and student outcomes at the center of their focus.
2. Career and technical education programs and courses of study should align their delivery with post-secondary and workforce needs.
3. Career and technical education programs should recognize the value of work-based learning.
4. Indiana should, to the extent possible, differentiate its emphasis on CTE programs based on regional and local workforce needs.
5. The State and local CTE programs should create strong partnerships and engagement with businesses and community organizations.

The taskforce agreed to present these values and initial recommendations for consideration by the Career Council, and are planning to review more detailed findings of the study at its meeting in October. Following that meeting, that taskforce will share additional recommendations with the Career Council at its October 2014 meeting.